

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, SG

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SOUTH AFRICAN OPPOSITION LEADER TO SENEGAL

REF: PRETORIA 5011

SUMMARY. SENEGALESE PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAS SALUTED CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE OF PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY AND AVOWED HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH COLIN EGLIN, WHILE DIS- AVOWING ANY CONTACT WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER. NONE OF THIS REPRESENTS SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE FROM SENGHOR'S ESTABLISHED POSTURE OF OPPOSING "DIALOGUE" BUT MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH LIBERAL WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S SEPTEMBER 15 MEETING IN DAKAR WITH SOUTH AFRICAN OPPOSITION POLITICIAN COLIN
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EGLIN PROMPTED SUBSTANTIAL ATTENTION BY LOCAL MEDIA TO EGLIN'S PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY, BEGINNING WITH SENGHOR'S EARLY SEPTEMBER STATEMENTS TO REPORTERS IN FRANCE REVEALING PLANS TO RECEIVE EGLIN. SENGHOR TOLD LE MONDE EGLIN WAS "ONE OF THE WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBERALS WITH WHOM I REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT." SEMI-OFFICIAL LE SOLEIL PUBLISHED PHOTO OF SMILING DAKAR MEETING, TWO-PAGE

INTERVIEW WITH EGLIN, AND FRONT PAGE PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT CITED REFTEL IN WHICH SENEGALESE LEADER RESPONDED TO SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S ASSERTION THAT SENGHOR WOULD NEVER HAVE MET WITH EGLIN HAD HE KNOWN WHAT A "DESTRUCTIVE ROLE" LATTER PLAYED IN SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL LIFE. IN ADDITION TO COMMENTS REPORTED REFTEL, SENGHOR SAID IT WAS DUE TO EGLIN'S PARTY THAT OAU HAD MADE LUSAKA DECLARATION

"WHERE WE ACCORD THE SAME RIGHTS TO ALL INHABITANTS OF AFRICA," WHATEVER THEIR RACE. SENGHOR DECLARED THAT EGLIN'S PARTY SHARED SAME OBJECTIVES WITH OTHER AFRICAN PARTIES: "WE DESIRE THAT . . . ALL PEOPLE, ALL RACES, ALL RELIGIONS LIVE ON A BASIS OF EQUALITY AND COOPERATE HARMONIOUSLY." SENGHOR CONCLUDED: "SINCE I KNOW M. EGLIN, I CAN SAY THAT HE HAS BECOME MY FRIEND AND I OFTEN HAVE THE OCCASION TO SAY SO."

2. IN LENGTHY DAKAR INTERVIEW (COPIES POUCHED PRETORIA AND DEPARTMENT), EGLIN CALLED FOR "OPEN SOCIETY, WHERE INDIVIDUAL SOUTH AFRICANS, WHATEVER THEIR SKIN COLOR, CAN FULFILL THEIR SOCIAL CONTRACT IN THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES." HE CALLED FOR ABOLITION OF LAWS AGAINST "METISSAGE," AND SAID HE WISHED TO SHOW AFRICAN COUNTRIES "THAT ALL SOUTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFRICAN WHITES DO NOT SHARE THE POLICY OF RACIAL SEGREGATION AND APARTHEID." ON ANGLO-AMERICAN RHODESIA PROPOSALS, EGLIN SAID "CONCEPT OF NEW GOVERNMENT GROWING OUT OF ELECTIONS BASED ON UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE IS ACCEPTABLE," AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE THAT UN ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF ORDER DURING TRANSITION.

3. FOLLOWING EGLIN VISIT, DAKAR AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC) REPRESENTATIVE SEBINA HELD PRESS CONFERENCE DRAWING ATTENTION TO WORSENING CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND REPORTEDLY DECLARING THAT "ARMED STRUGGLE IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE." ACCORDING TO PRESS, SEBINA DISTINGUISHED IDEOLOGIES OF EGLIN'S GROUP AND ANC WITH EXPLANATION THAT ANC WAS ENGAGED IN ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE.

4. COMMENT: EGLIN MEETING FOLLOWED SENGHOR'S SEPTEMBER 16 LE MONDE DECLARATION THAT "I HAVE RENOUNCED ANY FORM OF CONTACT WITH M. VORSTER AND WITH HIS POLITICAL FRIENDS." AFTER SENGHOR'S PROPOSAL THREE YEARS AGO TO SEND TEAM OF SENEGALESE JURISTS

TO SOUTH AFRICA WAS SPURNED BY VORSTER WITHOUT REPLY,
SENEGAL HAS EMPHASIZED ITS SCRUPULOUS ADHERENCE TO OAU
POSITION THAT ANY DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES
MUST BEGIN INTERNALLY RATHER THAN ORIGINATE FROM
OTHER AFRICAN STATES. AT SAME TIME, SENGHOR HAS
QUIETLY CULTIVATED RELATIONSHIPS WITH LIBERAL SOUTH
AFRICANS SUCH AS EGLIN. SENGHOR'S RECENT ACTIONS
THUS DO NOT SEEM TO REFLECT ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE FROM EXISTING
POLICY.
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